

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 11381

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, IN, PK
SUBJECT: FIRST CONVERSATION WITH NEW PAK MISSION IN DELHI

1. WE HAVE HAD OPPORTUNITIES IN THE LAST TWO DAYS TO TALK INFORMALLY WITH PAK AMBASSADOR FIDA HASSAN, MIN-COUNSELLOR AMIN AND POLITICAL COUNSELLOR HUSSAIN. ALL SEEM VERY SATISFIED WITH THEIR GENERAL TREATMENT AND RECEPTION IN DELHI BUT UNIFORMLY EMPHASIZE (ALTHOUGH IN DIFFERING STYLES) THAT THE REAL PROCESS OF NORMALIZATION WILL NOT BE COMPLETE UNTIL THE KASHMIR ISSUE IS RESOLVED. FIDA HASSAN STRESSED TO THE AMBASSADOR AND AMIN TO THE DCM THAT REAL NORMALIZATION COULD COME ONLY AFTER SOME SETTLEMENT ON KASHMIR, ALTHOUGH THEY HAD NO ILLUSIONS THIS WOULD COME SOON. HUSSAIN SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE INDIANS AND PAKS USE DIFFERENT LANGUAGE IN TALKING OF THE STATE OF COMPLETION OF THE SIMLA AGREEMENT, BOTH UNDERSTAND THAT KASHMIR REMAINS AN OPEN ISSUE. ALL EMPHASIZE THAT PROGRESS IN EXPANDING RELATIONSHIPS WILL BE SLOW. PROSPECTS FOR THE EXCHANGE OF FILMS ARE DIM AT PRESENT; THE AIRLINE FLIGHTS ARE THUS FAR OPERATING AT FAR BELOW CAPACITY AND BOTH INDIANS (MEA JOINT SECRETARY I.P. SINGH) AND PAKI-STANIS (HUSSAIN) HAVE TOLD US THAT SOMETHING WILL HAVE TO BE DONE TO SPEED UP AND SIMPLIFY THE ISSUANCE OF VISAS SO THAT THE AIR SERVICE CAN BE MADE ECONOMICALLY VIABLE; THE
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PAK EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED NUMEROUS INQUIRIES FROM INDIAN

BUSINESSMEN, MOST OF WHOM, THE PAK DIPLOMATS SAY, SEEM TO CONSIDER PAKISTAN ONLY AS AN IMPORTER, NOT A POTENTIAL EXPORTER TO INDIA. THE TWO ECONOMIES HAVE GROWN INCREASINGLY PARALLEL, AMIN FELT, AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONSHIPS WOULD EXPAND ONLY GRADUALLY. BOTH HUSSAIN AND AMIN INDICATED THAT THE INDIANS APPEAR TO BE ENDEAVORING TO ENVELOP THE PAK MISSION IN A CLOUD OF INDIAN BROTHERLINESS. HUSSAIN OBSERVED THAT THE INDIANS MAY NOT BE EXPANSIONIST, BUT THEY ARE ENORMOUSLY "ABSORBTIVE" AND APPEAR TO BE TREATING THE PAKISTANI DELEGATION LIKE ERRANT BRETHREN WHO WILL NOW SURELY WISH TO RETURN TO THE EMBRACE OF THE FAMILY.

2. THE PAK MISSION AND INDO-PAK RELATIONS HAVE VIRTUALLY VANISHED FROM THE PAGES OF THE INDIAN PRESS IN THE LAST WEEK, AFTER THE INITIAL SPLASH OF OPENING MISSIONS. THE PAK MISSION HERE IS SLOWLY FINDING ACCOMMODATION FOR ITS DIPLOMATS, BUT EXPRESSES SHOCK AT THE COST OF HOUSE RENTALS. BOTH SIDES SEEM TO BE PREPARING TO SETTLE DOWN TO A LONG PROCESS OF WORKING OUT THE NITS AND KNOTS IN DAY-TO-DAY BUSINESS.
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